Irving Penn (b. 1917, Plainfield, NJ) enrolled at the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art in 1934; there he studied design with Alexey Brodovitch. In 1938 Penn began a career in New York City as a graphic artist.

After a year spent painting in Mexico, Penn returned to New York and began work at *Vogue* magazine where Alexander Liberman was art director. Liberman encouraged Penn to take his first color photograph -- a still life -- that ultimately became the October 1, 1943 cover of *Vogue*. Thus began a close collaboration with the magazine that continues to the present date. In addition to his editorial and fashion work for *Vogue*, Penn has photographed for other magazines and for a number of commercial clients in America and abroad.


Penn’s photographs are in the collections of major museums in America and abroad, including the Moderna Museet, Stockholm; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Penn made a major donation of prints and archival material to the Art Institute of Chicago in 1997.


Irving Penn lives and works in New York City.